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SECURITY INFORMATION

Chief, Materials Division, O/RR

23 November 1951

Chief, Food and Agriculture Branch, D/M

European Assignment for [REDACTED] 25X1A9a

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25X1A6a 1. It is urgently recommended that [REDACTED] be sent to [REDACTED] to exploit various sources of information and that for administrative purposes he be attached to the O/RR team in [REDACTED] (this would in effect mean 25X1A6a that the team had four members).

25X1A9a 2. [REDACTED] is an Intelligence Officer in the Food and Agriculture Branch, has an excellent knowledge of the Czechoslovakian language, a fair knowledge of the Russian language, and is a highly trained forest products economist.

25X1A9a 3. It is suggested that [REDACTED] duties include:

a. Exploiting the following institutions for basic and current Forestry and Agricultural intelligence on the Soviet Bloc:

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b. Check the appropriate files and records of Russian and other defectees and, if available, reinterrogate those individuals who can provide intelligence on Forestry, Fishery, and Agriculture.

c. Assist when desirable in the interrogation of new defectees from the Soviet Bloc.

4. Although the Soviet Bloc supports a large forest and agricultural economy, statistics concerning production, processing, and consumption are extremely meager. Basic data on the production factors, location and type of productive units, and kind and volume of production are extremely limited.

At best the total output figures available are estimates based on plan fulfillment figures. Reliability of these figures is questionable, especially in forestry, because no supporting information is at hand. Assuming that estimates that have been made at [REDACTED] CIA and other agencies are correct, there are still great gaps in information on a regional basis which can only be obtained from sources not now available to CIA.

Outside of the Soviet Bloc, information on wood production and agriculture can best be found in Western Germany. [REDACTED] two of the best informed foresters with knowledge of the Soviet forest economy, are headquartered at the [REDACTED]

5. If the above recommendation is approved, [REDACTED] will be given a thorough briefing in terms of specific intelligence requirements by the Food and Agriculture Branch.

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